



General Meeting
Friday September 21, 2012
7:30pm
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane Lafayette

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|------------------------------|---|
| September Meeting Program | 1 |
| Officers and Appointees | 2 |
| Public Service Opportunities | 2 |
| President's QTC | 3 |
| California QSO Party | 5 |
| Prescription Drug Take Back | 5 |
| Ham Radio Outlet | 6 |
| Club Repeaters | 7 |
| Club Calendar | 7 |



September Meeting Program

What is ESGR and what is it like to fly in an Air Force tanker?

Come and find out the answers to these questions. Presented by Tom Clausen, KG6YVZ.

Tom is an Amateur Extra Class license holder who has been a member of the Benicia Amateur Radio Club for about 7 years and is currently serving as the club's president.

--John Welden, KJ6GLQ



PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

It's that time of year when we begin organizing for this year's ham radio public service events. I am putting together a list for the MDARC Public Services webpage and for *The Carrier* newsletter. Here is a sneak preview, so you can begin planning what you would like to volunteer for. Some information below is not yet fully confirmed. We definitely appreciate and love to have your participation. These are great events in beautiful places, they are fun to do, invaluable to the community organizations that we assist, and great opportunities to use your cool ham radio equipment.

10/7/12: Mt. Diablo Challenge bike ride up Mt. Diablo, for *Save Mt. Diablo*.

Pete Harris, KE6ZIW
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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

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Communications Trailer - Brent Morgan, AF6HQ

Amateur Television Help and Information:
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ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CLUB YAHOO GROUP. DOWNLOAD FILES, INCLUDING *THE CARRIER* IN FULL COLOR AS WELL AS SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE MEMBERSHIP AT:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mdarc>

PRESIDENT'S QTC

I sure hope that you have enjoyed your summer, and are preparing your shack, antennas, feedline, and tower/mast(s) for the all the abuses of this coming winter. While things are still dry, this is the time to turn your attention to station maintenance, prevention and repair – if needed.

I need to get something off my chest. For over a year, the amateur television (ATV) operators in the MDARC family have had to deal with a truly insurmountable insult. A high power, commercial television antenna was added to the top of the communications tower that we occupy on the South Peak of Mount Diablo. Knowing that the new TV antenna would likely cause harmful interference with our amazing array of bands and modes on that tower, engineers working for the tower owner made arrangements to mitigate issues. They did studies and moved antennas around. Our 2M, 220 MHz, and 440 MHz FM repeaters seemed to continue operating with little or no issues, but ATV was not so lucky. To put it in anthropomorphic terms, ATV was emasculated!

The Club made every effort to work with the folks at the tower company. Life Member, and former President John Ronan even visited our corporate contact's Massachusetts office. Deals were made, but nothing happened. Until, finally the day came when the tower firm wanted to extract more rent from us each month to move forward and fix the problem that they had caused.

A tower owner on North Peak of Mount Diablo stepped forward and offered to allow the ATV community to place their equipment on his tower and in his equipment shack for a very modest monthly rent. The MDARC Tech Committee discussed this for several months – judiciously weighing the pros and cons. Finally, they forwarded a proposal to the MDARC Board, which agreed to the proposal and forwarded the proposal to the general membership for a vote. The general membership agreed to the move.

The tower owner of North Peak is a great man and fellow ham. He owns a series of towers and a couple of commercial radio stations. He understands who we are and what we wish to do. However, there have been a lot of complexities that he has had to struggle through in order to get us on the tower. Apparently our timeline is not anyone else's timeline! The months have been ticking away like seconds. We continue to lose ATV operators who have lost interest in the mode because it has not been fully available for over a year. I sure cannot blame them.

I know it will get better. I know that it will be resolved, and we are likely to have one of the most robust ATV repeaters to be found anywhere – some day.

In the last couple of weeks, I have made progress with the owner of North Peak tower. We ought to be able to get on the mountain shortly. It is still a bit of a long road to install all the equipment, feedline and antennas. Arrangements have been made to hire tower climbers. Antennas, support struts, feedline, clamps and other gear have been purchased. We are just waiting for the green light.

I apologize to our members that this has not been resolved long before today. I am not really certain what any of us could have done differently, but this sure did not play out the way that any of us had hoped.

Pacificon 2012 – The ARRL National Convention is upon us! This is really going to be a BIG show. Starting out with Paul Howes WA6GYG's Friday Antenna Forum all the way to Sunday's ARRL Pacific Division meeting and prize drawing. Everything is just bigger this year. We have about 100 renowned forum speakers on just about any amateur radio subject that you could imagine: from the frivolous to the critical. We have expanded the Vendor Pavilion this year. We have a giant area dedicated just to the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). We have an ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) contact set to go on Saturday.

We have many non-profit exhibitors who will be demonstrating all manner of RF modes and activities. We have a number of static displays available for view in the outside area. Please don't forget our swap meet on Saturday morning! Our Youth Education team has put together an amazing array of activities from kit building, special forums, youth lounge area, GOTA opportunities and more.

NASA Astronaut Dr. Lee Morin, KF5DDB, will be a special guest at Pacificon. Morin, an ARRL member, served as a Mission Specialist on *Atlantis* for STS-110 launched in April 2002. During this 13th shuttle mission to the International Space Station (ISS), he performed two extra-vehicular activities (EVAs) -- also known as spacewalks -- the first time that the station's robotic arm was used to maneuver spacewalkers around the station. Morin currently serves in the US Navy with the rank of captain. He also holds an MD and a PhD in Microbiology, both from New York University. Pacificon attendees will have the chance to meet and greet Morin in the ARRL exhibit area (times and locations will be posted). He will also present a forum at Pacificon and will be the speaker at Saturday night's banquet where he will share his experiences about spaceflight and his interests in Amateur Radio. ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, has also been confirmed as a banquet speaker.

We are hosting W1AW/6 for everyone with a license to operate and get a certificate. An incredible Wouff Hong ceremony is being put together for Saturday night. Our Banquet and Coffee are not to be missed, either.

Last month, I warned everyone that they needed to order their tickets for the Banquet and other activities. If you have not done so, it is pretty certain that you are out of luck for those special events. However, we will still have *Pacificon* tickets for you. Please remember, the tickets are less money in advance than at the door! Also, we are always looking for volunteers to help!

I encourage members who would like to participate more in Club activities and leadership or Pacificon to come out to our MDARC Board meetings or Pacificon Committee meetings. The MDARC Board meets on the first Monday of each month at 7pm at Black Bear Diner in Walnut Creek. The *Pacificon* Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm at the Salvation Army in Concord.

Hope to see you at the MDARC meeting on September 21 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette. Vice-President John Welden has put together another great presentation for us!

Catch you down the log book!

73, Jim Simons AF6PU, President



NASA Astronaut and U.S. Navy Captain, Dr. Lee Morin, KF5DDB, Pacificon 2012 guest speaker.

(Photo courtesy ARRL)

California QSO Party

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October 6-7, 2012
1600 UTC Oct 6 to 2200 UTC Oct 7



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Northern California Contest Club

NCCC

Excellence in Amateur Radio Contesting

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired
medication for safe disposal
Saturday, September 29th



More information at:
www.dea.gov

Time to get ready!



September is
**NATIONAL
PREPAREDNESS
MONTH**



**Turn in Your Unused or Expired
Medication for Safe Disposal**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day which will take place on Saturday, September 29, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for those who have accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications.

The American people have again responded overwhelmingly to the most recent DEA-led National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. On April 28th, citizens turned in a record-breaking 552,161 pounds (276 tons) of unwanted or expired medications for safe and proper disposal at the 5,659 take-back sites that were available in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

"Our take-back events highlight the problems related to prescription drug abuse and give our citizens an opportunity to contribute to the solution," said DEA Administrator Michele Leonhart. "These events are only made possible through the dedicated work and commitment of our state, federal, local, and tribal partners and DEA thanks each and every one of them for their efforts on behalf of the American people."

COLLECTION SITES INCLUDE:

Concord Police Department, 1350 Galindo Street, Concord
Contra Costa Sheriff's Office, 1980 Muir Road, Martinez and
5555 Giant Highway, Richmond

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The Carrier

Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 23222

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

www.mdarc.org



FIRST CLASS

October 12, 13, 14, 2012

W6CX Nets and Repeater Frequencies

Monday 7:00 pm Washington High School Net 147.060+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm General ATV Net 1241.250+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

FM 147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz - EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz

D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz

<http://www.dstarusers.org/viewrepeater.php?system=W6CX>

Dashboard link is: <https://64.81.254.107/status.html>

ATV Input: 1289.25 MHz AM/FM. Outputs 1241.25 MHz AM 919.25 MHz AM

ATV Internet Stream: <http://www.w6cxatv.net/live>

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets

Every Thursday

<http://www.coco-races.org/meetings/nets/>

6:35 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 146.355+ (77.0 PL)

7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.3 PL)

September 2012 and October 2012 Club Calendar

Friday September 21, 2012

7:30pm MDARC General Meeting -

Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Saturday October 6, 2012

9:00am MDARC Technical Committee Meeting -

Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor Street, Pittsburg

Monday October 8, 2012

7:00 pm MDARC Board Meeting

Black Bear Diner, 700 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek

October 12-14, 2012

PACIFICON ARRL National Convention and Expo
Marriott Hotel, 270 Mission College Blvd, Santa Clara